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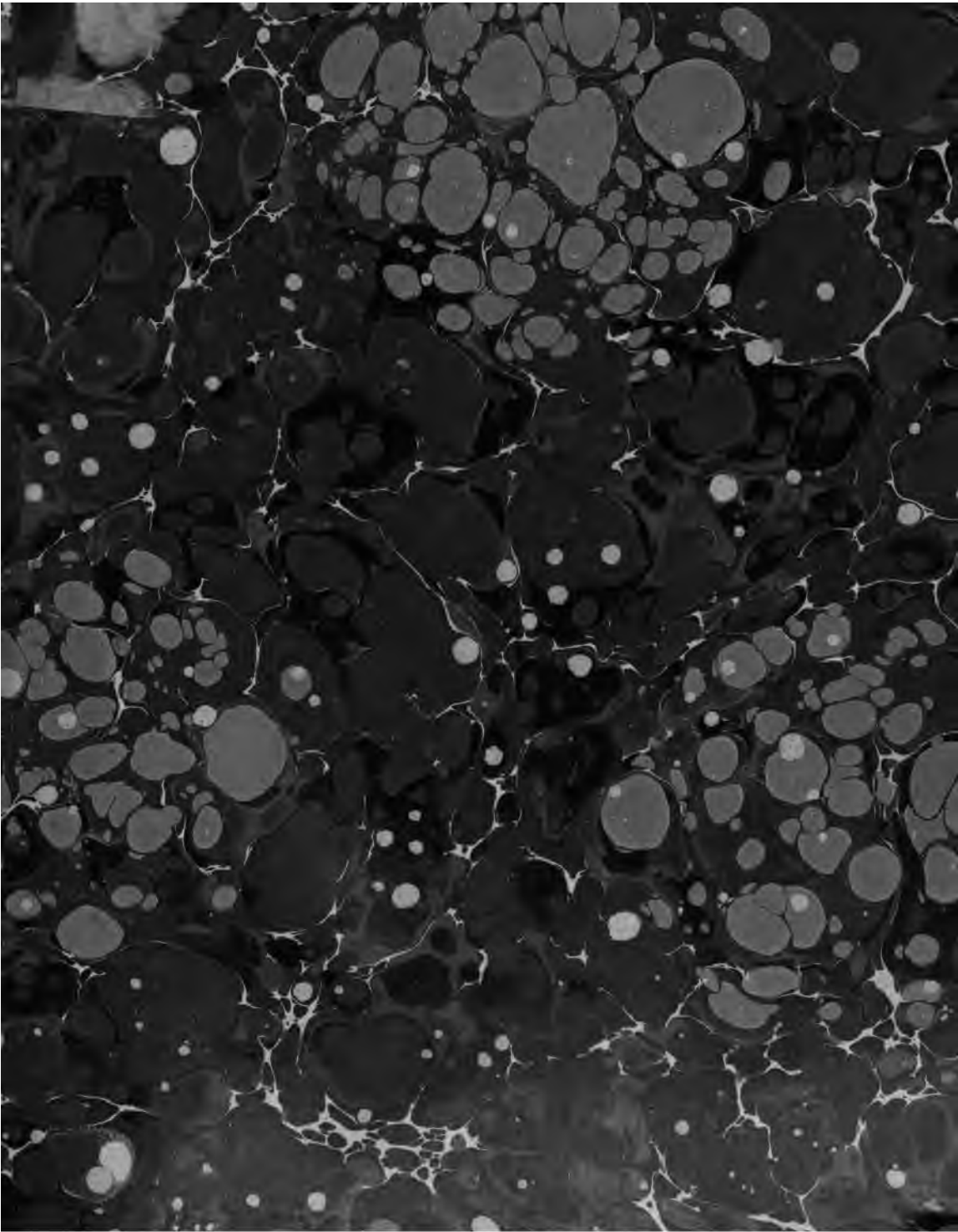
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TO

HARVA

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THE
LATIN LETTER
OF
COLUMBUS

PRINTED IN 1493

AND ANNOUNCING THE DISCOVERY OF

AMERICA

REPRODUCED IN FACSIMILE, WITH A PREFACE

C.
LONDON
BERNARD QUARITCH
15 PICCADILLY
1893

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Latin letter of Columbus, although plainly indicated in its heading as a translation, was for centuries considered to be the only authentic account of his voyage derived from his own pen. The existence of the Spanish original in a printed text of the period was for the first time made known in 1856, when the quarto now in the Ambrosian library came to light, and it is only three years since the discovery of the still earlier Spanish folio, which has been acquired by the Lenox library from Mr. Quaritch. The importance of the Latin letter as a collateral and (in some instances) corrected document will not easily pass away; collectors and libraries will still bid enormous prices for such rare copies of any of the four editions which appeared in 1493, as may turn up from time to time.

The facsimile of the Latin letter now offered to the public is unaccompanied by an English version, because that work has already been done several times, notably by Mr. Eames of the Lenox library a few months ago; and also because the translation appended to the facsimile of the Spanish folio announced on the wrapper of the present letter, will serve as a translation for either. Nothing therefore remains to be said here except a few words with regard to the origin, dates, and succession of the first four editions of the Latin Columbus.

The Spanish folio was printed at Barcelona in April, 1493, probably before the middle of that month. The transmission of

copies from the Peninsula to the rest of Europe was not effected in the same manner as at present, when railway communication has made Paris the immediate recipient of Spanish traffic. Its ordinary course was by sea to Naples, where the dynasty of Aragon was reigning and where the languages of Catalonia, Valencia, and Castille were familiarly used. It was perhaps about the 22nd or 23rd of April, that the Barcelona letter reached Naples, and it was probably in that city, not in Spain, that the Spanish quarto of the Ambrosian library was reprinted from the Barcelona folio of the Lenox library. As for the Latin letter, its origin was slightly different. Columbus had addressed separate copies of the same narrative to two persons—the first to his friend Luis de Santangel, King Ferdinand's financial secretary, the second (which, from the very fact that it was secondary, contained some corrections and some errors) to Gabriel Sanxis, the Treasurer of Aragon. As the text in both was almost identical, there was no occasion to print the one addressed to Sanxis after that to Santangel had issued from the press of Johann Rosenbach at Barcelona. In any case, for whatever reason, the Spanish text so inscribed was never printed until Varnhagen gave it from a manuscript in 1858. But it was a copy, undoubtedly in MS., of the Sanxis letter, which reached the hands of Leandro de Cosco in Naples somewhere about the 23rd or 24th of April, 1493, and was rendered by him into Latin in the version which was printed four times in 1493, and has been frequently reprinted since. This Leandro was a subject of the kingdom of Aragon as his appellation shows, Cosco being a small town in Lerida not far from Balaguer. The natural jealousy between Aragon and Castille accounts for his evidently wilful omission of Isabel's name in the heading of his translation. He presented the work to Leonardus, Bishop of the Neapolitan see of Monte Peloso, a prelate of Catalonian birth, whose family name appears elsewhere Latinised as "de Carninis," but who called himself "Leonardus de Corbaria," because his native place was Corbaria (now called Corbière), a town on the frontiers of Aragon and Roussillon. The Bishop, who was no less patriotic and prejudiced than Leandro, carried the translation to Rome with

him, and, having added to it some verses enthusiastically laudatory of his sovereign Ferdinand (but ignoring the Queen of Castille, to whom Columbus was so much indebted, and whom he never forgot in writing about "Their Highnesses"), he gave it to Stephan Planck to print. Planck, who was a priest as well as a printer, produced an impression (in small quarto size, four leaves with thirty-four lines to each full page) which was published early in May, 1493. [One copy of that edition is in the Lenox library; another in the Boston library.] In the usual course of transmission to the North, which was almost always from Rome to Cologne, by the river-way from Basel, a copy of Planck's first edition reached the latter city and was there reprinted with pictorial illustrations in wood-engraving (in small quarto size, ten leaves, with twenty-seven lines to each full page). This Basel edition is very rare, and the only perfect copy known is in the Lenox library. Two reprints of the same text were also published in Paris by Gui Marchant; both probably in 1493 but dateless. Before this time, Planck had been reproved by Castilians in Rome for having produced a book so pointedly injurious to the credit of Queen Isabel. He therefore printed a second edition (small quarto, four leaves, thirty-three lines to each full page) in which Leander's words "invictissimi Fernandi Hispaniarum Regis" were altered to "invictissimorum Fernandi et Helisabet Hispaniarum Regum," Isabel and Ferdinand, although wife and husband, being equally sovereigns, the one of Castille and Leon, the other of Aragon. The name of the Treasurer, which had appeared in Planck's first edition as Raphael Sanxis, by error for Gabriel Sanxis, was altered, correctly from Raphael to Gabriel, but incorrectly from Sanxis to Sanchis. The Catalanian name Sanxis (pronounced Sanshis) had a Castilian correlative in Sanchez, and if it was necessary to make a Castilian of the Treasurer he ought to have been transmuted into Gabriel Sanchez. But the Castilianisers evidently objected merely to Ferdinand *solus* and to the Aragonese *x* in Sanxis; so that Planck's second edition when it came out had still the Catalanian *i* after the Castilian *ch*. Hence when another

edition was required, later in the same year, it was printed by Franck or Silber of Rome (who called himself Eucharis Argenteus) with two further corrections. "Fernandi et Helisabet" became "Fernandi *ac* Helisabet" and "Sanchis" was turned into "Sanches"; and a word on the third page, which is "noverant" in the other three editions, is properly corrected into "neverant." Generally, however, Silber's edition is less intelligently printed than the others, and the best of the four is, on the whole, the one here given in facsimile. Silber's edition is the only one of the four which is dated and inscribed. Planck's two editions and the Basel edition, bear neither name nor date. Silber's has his name "Argenteus" with place and date given as "Rome . . . M . cccc . xcij". It is in small quarto, four leaves, with forty lines to each full page; and a copy is to be found in the Lenox library at New York.





¶ Epistola Chriftophori Colom: cui etas nostra multū debet: de Insulis Indię supra Gangem nuper inuētis. Ad quas pergren- das octauo antea mense auspicijs ⁊ ere inuictissimorū Fernādi ⁊ Delisabet Hispaniarū Regū missus fuerat: ad magnificū dñm Gabrielem Sanchis eorundē serenissimorū Regum Tesaurariū missa: quā nobilis ac literatus vir Leander de Cosco ab Hispa no idiomate in latinum cōuertit tertio kal's Maii. M. cccc. xciii Pontificatus Alexandri Sexti Anno primo.

Quoniam susceptę prouintię rem perfectam me ꝑsecutum fuisse gratum tibi fore scio: has constitui exarare: que te vniuscuiusq; rei in hoc nostro itinere gestę inuenteq; ad- moneant: Tricesimotertio die postq̃ Gadibus discessi in mare Indicū perueni: vbi plurimas insulas innumeris habitatas bo- minibus repperi: quarum omnium pro felicissimo Rege nostro preconio celebrato ⁊ vexillis extensis contradicente nemine pos- sessionem accepti: primeq; earum diuī Saluatoris nomen impo- sui: cuius fretus auxilio tam ad hanc: q̃ ad ceteras alias perue- nimus. Eam dō Indi Guanabanin vocant. Aliarū etiam vnam quanq; nouo nomine nuncupauit: quippe aliā insulam Sanctę Marię Conceptionis. aliam Fernandinam. aliam Dysabellam. aliam Joanam. ⁊ sic de reliquis appellari iussi. Cum primum in eam insulam quam dudum Joanam vocari dixi appulimus: iux- ta eius littus occidentem versus aliquantulum processi: tamq; eam magnam nullo reperto fine inueni: vt non insulā: sed conti- nentem Chatai prouinciā esse crediderim: nulla tñ videns op- pida municipiaue in maritimis sita consimibꝫ preter aliquos vi- cos ⁊ prædia rustica: cum quorū incolis loqui nequibam. quare si mul ac nos videbant furripiebant fugam. Progrediebar vltra existimans aliquā me urbem villasue inuenturū. Deniq; videns q; longe admodum progressis nihil noui emergebat: ⁊ bñōi viā nos ad Septentrionem deferbat: q; ipse fugere exoptabā: terribis etenim regnabat bruma: ad Austrumq; erat in voto cōtenderet:

nec minus ventri flagrantib⁹ succedebāt constitui alios nō ope-
riri successus: et sic retrocedens ad portū quendā quem signane/
ram sum reuersus: vnde duos boies et nostros in terrā misit: qui
inuestigarēt esset ne. Rex in ea prouincia vrbesue aliquē. Id per
tres dies ambulariunt inuenerūtq; innumeros populos et habita-
tiones: paruas tñ et absq; vllō regimine - quapropter redierunt.
Interea ego iam intellexeram a quibusdam Indis quos ibidē su-
sciperā quō hmoi prouincia insula quidem erat: et sic perrexi ori-
entem versus eius semp stringēs littoza vsq; ad miliaria. cccxii
vbi ipsius insule sunt extrema: hinc aliā insulam ad orientē pro-
specti distantē ab hac Joana miliarib⁹. liii. quā protinus Hispani-
am dixi: in eamq; concessi et direxi iter quasi per Septentrionē
quemadmodum in Joana ad orientē miliaria. dlii. que dicta
Joana et alie ibidē insule q̄fertilissime existunt. Nec multis atq;
tutissimis et latis nec aliis quos vnq̄ viderim cōparandis por-
tibus est circumdata. multi maximī et salubres hanc interfliunt
fluvii: multi quoq; et eminentissimi in ea sunt montes. Omnes
be insule sunt pulcherrime et variis distincte figuris: puic: et ma-
xima arborū varietate sidera lambentiū plene: quas nunq̄ foliis
priuari credo. Quippe vidi eas ita virentes atq; decoras ceu mē-
se Maio in Hispania solent esse: quaz alie florentes alie fructuo-
se: alie in alio statu fm vniuscuiusq; qualitātē vigeant: garrie-
bat philomela et alii passerēs vari ac inūmeri mēse Nouembri-
quo ipse per eas deambulabā. Sunt preterea in dicta insula Jo-
na septē vel octo palmarū genera q̄ proceritate et pulchritudine
quādamodū cetera oēs arbores: berbe: fructusq; nras facile ex-
perāt. Sūt et mirabiles pin⁹ agri et prata vastissima: varie aues:
varia mella: variaq; metalla ferro excepto. In ea aut quā Hispani-
am supra dixim⁹ nuncupari maximī sunt mōtes ac pulchri: va-
sta rura: nemora: campi feracissimi seri pasciq; et pdendis edifici-
is aptissimi. Portuū in hac insula cōmoditas et prestantia flumi-
nū copia salubritate admixta hoim: q̄ nisi quis viderit: credulita-
tez superat. Dūt arbores pascua et fructus multū ab illis Joane

differrunt. Nec preterea Hispana diuerso aromatis genere auro-
metallisq; abundat. cuius quidem et oïum aliarq; quas ego vidi et
et quazq; cognitionē habeo incole vtriusq; sexus nudi semper ince-
dunt quēadmodū edunt in lucem: preter aliquas feminasq; fo-
lio frondeue aliqua aut bombicino velo pudenda operiunt: qđ
ipse sibi ad id negocii parant. Carent il oēs (vt supra dixi) quo-
cūq; genere ferri. carēt et armis vtpote sibi ignotis nec ad ea sūt
apti: nō ppter corporis deformitatem cū sint bene formati: sed
qđ sunt timidi ac pleni formidine. gestant tñ pro armis arundi-
nes sole pustas: in quazq; radicib; hastile quoddā ligneū siccū et
in mucronem attenuatū figunt. neq; iis audēt ingiter vti: nā se-
pe euenit cū miserim duos vel tris boīes ex meis ad aliquas vil-
las vt cū eaz loquerent incolas: exiisse agmen glomeratū ex In-
dis: et vbi nros appropinquare videbant fugā celeriter arripui-
se despetis a patre liberis et econtra. et hoc nō qđ culpiam eoz dā-
num aliqđ vel iniuria illata fuerit: imo ad quoscūq; appuli et qui-
bus cū verbum facere potui: quicqđ habebā sim elargitus: pan-
num aliāq; p multa nulla mihi facta versura: sed sunt natura pa-
uidi ac timidi. Ceterz vbi se cernunt tutos oī metu repulsi: sunt
admodum simplices ac bone fidei et in oib; que habēt liberalissi-
mi: roganti qđ possideret inficiat nemo: quin ipsi nos ad id poscē-
dū inuitāt. Maximū erga oēs amorē pferunt: dant queq; ma-
gna pro paruis: minima lz re nihiloue ptenti. ego attñ phibui ne-
tā minia et nulli; precii hīce darent: vt sunt lances. parapsidū.
vitriq; fragmenta. itē clauī ligule. quanq; si hoc poterāt adipisci
videbat eis pulcherrima mūdi possidere iocalia. Ecce dicit. n. quē-
dam nauitam tantū auri pōdus habuisse pro vna ligula quanti
sunt tres aurei solidi. et sic alios pro aliis minoris precii: pserim
pro blanquia nouis: quibuscū nūmis aureis: p qđ habēdis da-
bant quicquid petebat vēditor: puta vnciam cū dimidia et duas
auri: vel triginta et quadraginta bombicis pondo: quā ipsi iam
nouerant. itez arcuum. amphore. bydris. doliosq; fragmenta bom-
bice et auro tanq; bestie comparabant. quod quia iniquum sane

erat vetus: delicias quoque multa pulchra et grata que necesse est aliis in
loco interveniente premio-ut eos mihi facilius auxiliarem facerentque
propiciole et ut sine prorsus in amorem erga Regem Reginae perniciemque
nostros et universas gentes Hispanie ac studeant perquirere con
accusare eaque nobis tradere quibus ipsi affluunt et acce magnope
re indigemus. Nullam si norunt idolatriam: imo firmissime cre
dunt omnem vim: omnem potentiam: omnia denique bona esse in celo: mag
is inde cum his navibus et nautis descendisse: atque hoc animo utique
sui susceptus postquam metum repulerant. Nec sunt signis aut ra
tibus: quin summi ac perspicacis ingenii: et boni: es qui transire
tantum mare illud non sine admiratione uniuscuiusque rei rationem red
dunt: sed nunquam videntur gentes vestitas neque naves bene. Ego
statim atque ad mare illud perveni et prima insula quoddam Indos
violenter arripui: qui edicerent a nobis et nos pariter docerent
ea quorum ipsi in insce partibus cognitionem habebant: et ex roto
successit: nam brevi nos ipsos: et si nos tum gestu ac signis: tum
verbo intellexerunt: magnoque nobis fuit emolumento: veniunt
modo mecum qui semper putant me defuisse et celo: quavis die
nobiscum versati fuerint bodieque versentur et si erant primi qui
id quodcumque appellabamus nuntiabant: alii deinceps aliis cla
ra voce dicentes: Venite venire et videbitis gentes et herbas. Quam
ob rem tam femine quam viri: tam impuberes quam adulti: tam iuvenes
quam senes deposita formidine paulo ante precepta nos certatim vise
bant magna iter itipante caterva: aliis cibum: aliis potum affe
rentibus maximo cum amore ac benivolentia incredibili. Habet
unaqueque insula multas scaphas solidi ligni: et si angustas: lon
gitudine tamen ac forma nostris biremibus similes: cursu autem veloci
ores. Reguntur remis tantummodo. Harum quedam sunt magnae
quedam parvae: quedam in medio consistunt. Plures tamen biremi que
viginti duodeviginti transiris maiores: cum quibus in omnes illas
insulas: que innumere sunt: traicitur: cumque his suam mercatu
rum exercent et inter eos commercia fiunt. Aliquas ego harum bi
remis seu scapharum vidi quae vehebant septuaginta et octuaginta re

miſges. In omnibus ſiſ inſulis nulla eſt diuerſitas inter gentis
effigies: nulla in moribus atq; loquela: quā oēs ſe intelligunt
ad inuicem: que res perutilis eſt ad id qđ ſereniſſimos Reges nō
ſtros exoptare precipue reor: ſcđ eorū ad ſctām xpī fidem puerſio-
nem. cui qđem quantū intelligere potui facillimū ſunt et prou-
Dixi quēadmodū ſum progreſſus antea inſulam Joanā per re-
ctum tramitem occaſus in orientem miliaria. cccxxii. ſm quā. viā
et interuallum itineris poſſum dicere hanc Joanā eſſe maiorē
Angliā et Scotia ſimul. nāq; vltra dicta. cccxxii. paſſuū milia in
ea parte que ad occidentem proſpectat due: quas nō petii: ſuper
ſunt prouincie. quāq; alterā Indi Anan vocant cuius accolae can-
dati naſcuntur. Tendunt in longitudinez ad miliaria. clxxx. vt
ab his quos verbo mecū Indis percepi: qui oīs habent inſu-
las. Hiſpane dō ambir? maior eſt tota Hiſpania a Colonia vſq;
ad fontem rabidum. Hincq; facile arguiť qđ quartum eius latus
quod ipſe per rectā lineā occidentis in orientem traieci miliaria
continet. dxi. Nec inſula eſt affectanda et affectata nō ſpernenda
in qua et ſi aliaq; oim vt dixi pro inuictiſſimo Rege noſtro ſolen-
niter poſſeſſionem accepi: earūq; imperium dicto Regi penitus
cōmittitur: in oportuniore tñ loco atq; omni lucro et cōmertiō
condecēti cuiuſdā magne ville: cui Natiuitatis dñi nomen de-
dimus: poſſeſſionem peculiariter accepi: ibiq; arcem quandam
erigere extemplo iuſſi: que modo ſam debet eſſe pacta: in qua bo-
mines qui neceſſarii ſunt viſi cū omni animorū genere et vltra an-
num victu oportuno reliqui. Item quandā carauellā et pro aliſ
conſtruendis tam in hac arte qđ in ceteris peritos: ac eiūſdē in-
ſule Regis erga eos beniuolentiam et familiaritatē incredibiles
Sunt enim gentes ille amabiles admodum et benigne: eo qđ Rex
predictus me fratrem ſuū dici gloriabatur. Et ſi aium rei ocarent et
ſiſ qui in arce manſerunt nocere velint: nequeunt: qđ armis car-
rent: nudī incedūt et nimīū timidi: ideo dictā arcem tenētes dun-
taxat pnt totā eam inſulam nullo ſibi imminere diſcrimine popu-
lari: dum mō leges quas dedim⁹ ac regimen nō excedāt. In oib⁹

his insulis ut intellexi quisque vni tantum pluri acquiescit: preter principes aut reges: quibus viginti hic licet. femine magis quam viri laborare videntur: nec bene potui intelligere an habeant bona propria: vidi enim quod vnus habebat aliis impartiri: presertim dapibus obsonia et huiusmodi. Nullum apud eos monstrum reperi ut plerique existimabant: sed homines magne reuerentie atque benignos. Nec sunt nigri velut ethiopes: habent crines planos et demissos: non degunt ubi radiorum solaris emicat calor: immo magna namque hic est solis vehementia: propterea quod ab equinoctiali linea distat. Ubi videntur gradus sex et viginti ex montium cacuminibus. Maximum quoque viget frigus: sed id quidem moderantur. Indi tum loci consuetudine: tum rerum calidissimarum quibus frequenter et luxuriose vescuntur presidio. Itaque monstra aliqua non vidi: neque eorum alicubi habui cognitionem: excepta quadam insula Charis nuncupata: que secunda ex Hispania in Indiam transfretantibus existit: quam gens quecliam a finitimis habitata ferocior incolit. Hi carne humana vescuntur. Habent predicti biremium genera plurima quibus in omnes Indicas insulas traiciunt: depredant: surripiunt quecumque possunt. Ab his ab aliis differunt nisi quod gerunt more femineo longos crines: vestuntur arcubus et spiculis arundineis fixis ut diximus in grossiori parte attenuatis hastilibus: ideoque habent feroces: quare ceteri Indi inexhausto metu plectunt: sed hos ego nihili facio plus quam alios. Hi sunt qui cohebent cum quibusdam feminis: que sole insulam Mateurini primam ex Hispania in Indiam traicientibus habitant. De autem femine nullum sui sexus opus exercent: utuntur enim arcubus et spiculis sicut de earum virgibus dixi: muniunt sese laminis eneas quarum maxima apud eas copia existit. Aliam mihi insulam affirmant super adicta Hispania maiorem: eius incolae carere pilis: auroque inter alias potissimum exuberat. Huius insule et aliarum quas vidi homines mecum porto qui horum que dixi testimonium perhibent. Denique ut nostri discessus et celeris reversionis compendium ac emolumentum dievibus astringam hoc polliceor: me nostris Regibus invictissimis paruo eorum fultu auxilio: tantum auri daturum quantum eis fuer

rit opus. tñi vero aromatum. bombicis. masticis: q̄ apud Ebium
 duntaxat inueniuntur. tantūq; ligni aloes. tantum seruoꝝ hydo/
 latrarum: quantum eozum maiestas voluerit exigere. it: in reu/
 barbarum ⁊ alia aromatum genera que ii quos in dicta arce rels
 qui iam inuenisse atq; inuenturos existimo. qñquidem ego nul
 libi magis sum moratus nisi quantum me coegerunt venti: pze/
 terq; in villa Natiuitatis: dum arceꝝ condere ⁊ tuta oia esse pro
 uidi. Que ⁊ si maxima ⁊ inaudita sunt: multo tñ maiora forent
 si naues mibi vt ratio exigit subuenissent. Vex multum ac mira
 bile hoc: nec nostris meritis correspondens: sed sancte Chriſtia/
 ne fidei: noſtroꝝq; Regum pietati ac religioni: quia quod hu
 manus conſequi nō poterat intellectus: id b̄ manis cōceſſit di
 uinus. Solet enī deus seruus ſuos: quicq; ſua pcepta diligūt
 ⁊ in impoſſibilibus exaudire: vt nobis in preſentia contigit: qui
 ea conſecuti ſumꝝ a que hactenus mortalium vires minime atri
 gerant: nam ſi harū inſularū quipſam aliquid ſcripſerunt aut lo
 cuti ſunt: omnes per ambages ⁊ cōſecturas. nemo ſe eas vidiffe
 aſſerit vnde prope videbatur fabula. Igitur Rex ⁊ Regina prin
 cepſq; ac eoꝝ regna feliciff. ma cuncteq; ali: Chriſtianoz prouin
 cie Saluatori dño noſtro Jeſu Chriſto agamꝝ gratias: qui tan
 ta nos victoria munereq; donauit: celebrentur proceſſiones. per
 agantur ſolennia ſacra: feſtaq; fronde velentur delubra. exultet
 Chriſtus in terris quemadmodum in celis exultat: quom tot po
 pulozum perditas ante hac animas ſaluatum iri preuidet. Lete
 mur ⁊ nos: cum propter exaltationem noſtre fidei. tum propter
 rerum temporalium incrementa: quoz non ſolum Hiſpania ſed
 vniuerſa Chriſtianitas eſt futura particeps. Hec vt geſta ſunt
 ſic breuiter enarrata. Vale. Vliſ bone pridie Idus Martis.

Chriſtoſorus Colom Oceane claſſis Prefectus.



¶ Epistola Chriftofori Colom: cui etas nostra multū debet: de
 Insulis Indie supra Gangem nuper inuētis. Ad quas pergren-
 das octano antea mense auspiciis ⁊ ere inuictissimorū Fernādi ⁊
 Belisabet Hispaniarū Regū missus fuerat: ad magnificū dñm
 Gabrielem Sanchis eorundē serenissimorū Regum Tesaulariū
 missa: quā nobilis ac litteratus vir Leander de Cosco ab Hispa-
 no idiomate in latinum cōuertit tertio kalē Maii. M-cccc-xxiij
 Pontificatus Alexandri Sexti Anno primo.

Quoniam susceptę prouintię rem perfectam me ꝑsecutum
 fuisse gratum tibi fore scio: has constitui exarare: que re-
 vnus cuiusq; rei in hoc nostro itinere geste inuentę ad-
 moncant. Tricesimo tertio die postq̃ Gadibus discessi in mare
 Indicū perueni: vbi plurimas insulas innumeris habitatas ho-
 minibus repperi: quarum omnium pro felicissimo Rege nostro
 preconio celebrato ⁊ vexillis extensis contradicente nemine pos-
 sessionem accepit: primeq; earum diui Saluatoris nomen impo-
 sui: cuius fretus auxilio tam ad hanc: q̃ ad ceteras alias perue-
 nimus. Eam ho Indi Guanabanin vocant. Aliarū etiam vnam
 quanq; nouo nomine nuncupant: quippe aliā insulam Sanctę
 Marię Conceptionis. aliam Fernandinam. aliam Dysabellam.
 aliam Joanam: ⁊ sic de reliquis appellari iussi. Cum primum in
 eam insulam quam dudum Joanam vocari dixi appulimus: iux-
 ta eius littus occidentem versus aliquantulum processi: tamq̃
 eam magnam. nullo reperto fine inueni: vt non insulā: sed conti-
 nentem Chatai prouinciā esse crediderim: nulla tñ videns op-
 pida municipiaue in maritimis sita confinibꝫ preter aliquos vi-
 cos ⁊ prædia rustica: cum quorū incolis loqui nequibam. quare si
 mul ac nos videbant furriplebant fugam. Progrediebar ultra:
 existimans aliquā me urbem villasue inuenturū. Deniq; videns
 q̃ longe admodum. progressis nihil noui emergebat: ⁊ mōi viā
 nos ad Septentrionem deferebat: q̃ ipse fugere exoptabā: terris
 etenim regnabat brumma: ad Austrumq; erat in voto cōtenderes:

nec minus ventis flagrantibus succedebant constitui alios non ope-
riri successus: et sic retrocedens ad portum quandam quem signane-
ram sum reuersus: unde duos boies ex nostris in terram missis qui
inuestigarēt esset ne Rex in ea prouincia vrbesue aliquę. Hi per
tres dies ambularunt inueneruntque innumeros populos et habita-
tiones: paruas tamen et absque ullo regimine: quapropter redierunt.
Interea ego iam intellexeram a quibusdam Indis quos ibidem sus-
ceperam quod huiusmodi prouincia insula quidem erat: et sic perrex-
i orientem versus eius semper stringens littora usque ad miliaria. cccxii
ubi ipsius insule sunt extrema: hinc aliam insulam ad orientem pro-
spectu distantē ab hac Joana miliaribus. lii. quam prius Hispaniam
dixi: in eamque concessi: et directum iter quasi per Septentrionē
quemadmodum in Joana ad orientem miliaria. dlii. que dicta
Joana et alie ibidem insule fertilissime existunt. Hec multis atque
tutissimis et latis nec aliis quos unquam viderim comparandis po-
tibus est circumdata: multi maximique salubres hanc interfluunt
fluvii: multi quoque et eminentissimi in ea sunt montes. Omnes
he insule sunt pulcherrime et variis distincte figuris: pulcherrima
arborum varietate sidera lambentium plene: quas nunquam foliis
prinari credo. Quippe vidi eas ita virentes atque decoras ceu mē-
se Maio in Hispania solent esse: quarum alie florescentes alie fructuo-
se: alie in alio statu sunt uniuscuiusque qualitate vigeant: garri-
bat philomela et alii passeris variis ac innumeris mēse Nouembri-
quo ipse per eas deambulabam. Sunt praeterea in dicta insula Jo-
na septem vel octo palmarum genera quae proceritate et pulchritudine
quemadmodum ceterae omnes arbores: herbe: fructusque nostras facile ex-
superant. Sunt et mirabiles pinus agri et prata vastissima: variae aues:
varia mella: variaque metalla ferro excepto. In ea autem quam Hispaniam
superius dixi nuncupari maximae sunt montes ac pulcherrima
rura: nemora: campi feracissimi ferri pascua et pendens edificia
is aptissimi. Portuum in hac insula commoditas et praestantia flumi-
num copia salubritate admixta hominum: quam nisi quis viderit: credulitate
superat. Vnde arbores pascua et fructus multum ab illis Joane

differunt. Nec preterea Hispana diuerso aromatis genere auro-
metallisq; abundat: cuius quidem et oïum aliarq; quas ego vidi et
et quaz cognitionē habeo incole vtriusq; sexus nudi semper ince-
dunt quēadmodū edunt in lucem: preter aliquas feminas: q̄ fo-
lio frondeue aliqua aut bombicino velo pudenda operiunt: qđ
ipse sibi ad id negotii parant. Carent ii oēs (vt supra dixi) quo-
cūq; genere ferri: carēt et armis vtpote sibi ignotis nec ad ea sūt
apri: nō ppter corporis deformitatem cū sint bene formati: sed
q̄a sunt timidi ac pleni formidine: gestant tñ pro armis arundi-
nes sole pustas: in quaz radicib; hastile quoddā ligneū siccū et
in mucronem attenuatū figunt: neq; iis audēt ingiter vti: nā se-
pe euenit cū miserim duos vel tris boīes ex meis ad aliquas vil-
las vt cū eaz loquerent incolas: exisse agmen glomeratū ex In-
dis: et vbi nros appropinquare videbant fugā celeriter arripuis-
se despretis a patre liberis et econtra: et hoc nō q̄ cupiam eoz dā-
num aliqđ vel iniuria illata fuerit: imo ad quoscūq; appuli et qui-
bus cū verbum facere potui: quicqđ habebā sum elargitus: pan-
num aliaq; multa nulla mihi facta versura: sed sunt natura pa-
uidi ac timidi. Ceterz vbi se cernunt tutos oī metu repulsi: sunt
admodum simplices ac bone fidei et in oib; que habēt liberalissi-
mi: roganti qđ possidet inficiat nemo: quin ipsi nos ad id poscē-
dū inuitāt. Maximū erga oēs amorē preferunt: dant queq; ma-
gna pro paruis: minima lz re nihiloue p̄tenti. ego attñ phibui ne-
tā minia et nulli; precii hisce darent et vt sunt lancia: parapsidū-
vitriq; fragmenta: itē clauī ligule: quanq; si hoc poterāt adipisci
videbat eis pulcherrima mūdi possidere iocalia. Accidit n. quē-
dam nauitam tantū auri pōdus habuisse pro vna ligula quanti
sunt tres aurei solidi: et sic alios pro aliis minoīs precii: p̄sertim
pro blanquis nouis: quibuscū nūmis aureis: p qđ; habēdis da-
bant quicquid petebat vēditor: pura vnciam cū dimidia et duas
auri: vel triginta et quadraginta bombicis pondo: quā ipsi iam
nouerant: itez arcuum: amphore: bpdrie: dolisq; fragmenta bom-
bice et auro tanq; bestie comparabant: quod quia iniquum sane

erat vetus: dediꝑ eis multa pulchra ⁊ grata que mecuꝝ: vltra nul
lo interueniente premio. vt eos mihi facilius ꝓciliarem fierentꝑ
ꝓꝓicole ⁊ vt sint ꝓꝓoni in amorem erga Regē Reginā ꝓꝓincipēꝑ
nostros ⁊ vniuersas gentes Hispanie ac studeant perquirere cor
aceruare eaqꝫ nobis tradere quibꝫ? ipsi affluunt ⁊ nos magnope
re indigemus. Nullam ii norunt idolatriam: imo firmissime cre
dūt oēm vim: oēm potentiam: oīa deniꝫ ꝓ bona esse in celo: meꝑ
inde cum his nauibus ⁊ nautis descēdisse: atꝑ hoc animo vbiqꝫ
sui susceptus ꝓstꝫ metum repulerant. Nec sunt sēgnes aut ru
des: quin summi ac perspicacis ingenii: ⁊ homines qui transire
tant mare illud nō sine admiratiōe vniuscuiusꝫ rei rationē red
dunt: sed nunꝫ viderūt gentes vestitas neꝫ naues hūmōi. Ego
statim atꝑ ad mare illud perueni e ꝓꝓima insula quosdā Indos
violenter arripui: qui ediscerent a nobis ⁊ nos pariter docerent
ea quoz ipsi in hisce partibus cognitionem habebant: ⁊ ex toto
successit: nam breui nos ipsos: ⁊ ii nos tum gestu ac signis: tum
verbis intellexerunt: magnoꝫ nobis fuisse emolumento: veniūt
modo mecum qui semper putant me desiluisse e celo: quāuis diu
nobiscum versati fuerint hodieꝫ versentur: et ii erant ꝓꝓimi qui
id quocunꝫ appellabamus nuntiabant: alii deinceꝫ aliis elat
ta voce dicentes: Venite venite ⁊ videbitis gētes etHEREAS. Quā
ob rem tam femine ꝫ viri: tam impuberes ꝫ adulti: tā iuuenes
ꝫ senes deposita formidine paulo ante ꝓcepta nos certatim vise
bant magna iter itipante caterua: aliis cibum: aliis porum affe
rentibus maximo cum amore ac beniuolentia incredibili. Dabet
vnaqueꝫ insula multas scaphas solidi ligni: ⁊ si angustas: lon
gitudine tñ ac forma nostris biremibus similes: cursu aut veloci
ores. Reguntur remis tantūmodo. Hæc quedaz sunt magnæ:
quedam parue: quedā in medio consistūt. Plures tñ biremi que
remiger duodeuiginti transtris maiores: cū quibus in oēs illas
insulas: que innumere sunt: traicitur. cumꝫ is suam mercatu
rum exercent ⁊ inter eos comertia fiunt. Aliquas ego harum bi
remiū seu scaphaz vidi q̄ rebebant septuaginta ⁊ octuaginta re

mitges. In omnibus his insulis nulla est diuersitas inter gentes
effigies: nulla in moribus atq; loquela: quā oēs se intelligunt
ad inuicem: que res perutilis est ad id qđ serenissimos Reges no
stros exoptare precipue reor: scđ eorū ad scđam xpī fidem puerfio
nem: cui qđem quantū intelligere potui facillimū sunt et prouisi.
Dixi quēadmodū sum progressus antea insulam Jo: nam per re
ctum tramitem occasus in orientem miliaria. cccxxi. sm quā viā
et interuallum itineris possum dicere banc Joanam esse maiorez
Angliā et Scotia simul. nāq; vltra dicta. cccxxi. passuū milia in
ea parte que ad occidentem prospectat due: quas nō petii: super
sunt prouincie. quaz alterā Indi Anan vocant cuius accolae cau
dati nascuntur. Tendunt in longitudinez ad miliaria. clxxx. vt
ab his quos rebo mecū Indis percepi: qui oīs has callent insul
las. Hispanie ho ambit? maior est tota Hispania a Colonia vsq;
ad fontem rabidum. Hincq; facile arguit qđ quartum eius latus
quod ipse per rectā lineā occidentis in orientem traieci miliaria
continet. dxi. Nec insula est affectanda et affectata nō spernenda
in qua et si aliaz oīm vt dixi pro inuictissimo Rege nostro solen
niter possessionem accepisse: earūq; imperium dicto Regi penitus
cōmittitur: in oportuniōi tñ loco atq; omni lucro et cōmercio
condecens cuiusdā magne ville: cui Flatiuitatis dñi nomen de
dimus: possessionem peculiariter accepi: ibiq; arcem quandam
erigere extemplo iussi: que modo iam debet esse pacta: in qua ho
mines qui necessarii sunt visi cū omni aī mox genere et vltra an
num victu oportuno reliqui. Item quandā carauellā et pro aliis
construendis tam in hac arte qđ in ceteris peritos: ac eiusdē in
sule Regis erga eos beniuolentiam et familiaritatē incredibiles
Sunt enim gentes ille amabiles admodum et benigne: eo qđ Rex
predictus me fratrem suū dici gloriabatur. Et si aīum rei. ocarunt et
his qui in arce manserunt nocere relint: nequeunt: qā armis cai
rent nudt incedūt et nimīū timidi: ideo dictā arcem tenētes dun
taxat pñt totā eam insulam nullo sibi imminere discrimine popu
lari: dum nō leges quas dedim? ac regimen nō excedāt. In oīb?

his insulis ut intellexi quisque vni tam pluri acquiescit: preter principes aut reges: quibus viginti hic licet. femine magis quam viri laborare videntur: nec bene potui intelligere an habeant bona propria: vidi enim quod vnus habebat aliis impartiri: preferim dapes obsonia et huiusmodi. Nullum apud eos monstrum reperi ut plerique existimabant: sed homines magne reuerentie atque benignos. Nec sunt nigri velut ethiopes: habent crines planos et demissos. non degunt ubi radiorum solaris emicat calor: immagna namque hic est solis vehementia: propterea quod ab equinoctiali linea distat. Ubi videntur gradus sex et viginti ex montium cacuminibus. Maximum quoque viget frigus: sed id quidem moderantur. Indi tum loci consuetudine: tum rerum calidissimarum quibus frequenter et luxuriose vescuntur presidio. Itaque monstra aliqua non vidi: neque eorum alicubi habui cognitionem: excepta quadam insula Charis nuncupata: que secunda ex Hispania in Indiam transfretantibus existit. quam gens quecliam a finitimis habitata ferocior incolit. Hi carne humana vescuntur. Habent predicti biremium genera plurima quibus in omnes Indicas insulas traiciunt: depredant: surripiunt quecumque possunt. Ab his ab aliis differunt nisi quod gerunt more femineo longos crines: vestuntur arcibus et spiculis arundineis fixis ut diximus in grossiori parte attenuatis bastilibus: ideoque habent feroces: quare ceteri Indi inexhausto metu plectunt: sed hos ego nihili facio plus quam alios. Hi sunt qui coheunt cum quibusdam feminis: que sole insulam Mateurnin primam ex Hispania in Indiam traicientibus habitant. De autem femine nullum sui sexus opus exercent: utuntur enim arcibus et spiculis sicut de earum plerisque dixi. muniunt sese laminis eneis quarum maxima apud eas copia existit. Aliam mihi insulam affirmant super adicta Hispana maiorem: eius incolae carere pilis: auroque inter alias potissimum exuberat. Huius insule et aliarum quas vidi homines mecum porto qui horum que dixi testimonium perhibent. Denique ut nostri discessus et celeris reuertionis compendium ac emolumentum breuibz astringam hoc polliceor: me nostris Regibus inuictissimis paruo eorum fultu auxilio: tantum auri daturum quantum eis fuer

est opus. tñ vero aromatum·bombicis·massicis:q̄ apud Ebium
duntaxat inueniuntur· tantūq; ligni aloes· tantum seruorū bydo/
latrarum: quantum eorum maiestas voluerit exigere· ita in reu/
barbarum et alia aromatum genera que ii quos in dicta arce reli/
qui iam inuenisse atq; inuenturos existimo· q̄iquidem ego nul/
libi magis sum moratus nisi quantum me coegerunt venti: pze/
terq; in villa Platiuitatis: dum arcey condere et tuta oia esse pro/
uidi. Que et si maxima et inaudita sunt: multo tñ maiora forent
si naues mihi vt ratio exigit subuenissent. Vex multum ac mira/
bile hoc: nec nostris meritis correspondens: sed sancte Ebistia/
ne fidei: nostrorumq; Regum pietati ac religioni: quia quod hu/
manus consequi nō poterat intellectus: id h̄ manis cōcessit: di/
uinus. Solet enim deus seruis suos: quicq; sua p̄cepta diligūt
et in impossibilibus exaudire: vt nobis in presentia contigit: qui
ea consecuti sumus a que hactenus mortalium vires minime atti/
gerant: nam si harū insularū quipiam aliquid scripserunt aut lo/
cuti sunt: omnes per ambages et cōiecturas: nemo se eas vidisse
asserit: vnde prope videbatur fabula. Igitur Rex et Regina prin/
cepsq; ac eorū regna feliciss̄. ma cuncteq; ali: Ebistianorū provin/
cie Saluatori dño nostro Iesu Christo agam⁹ gratias: qui tan/
ta nos victoria munereq; donauit: celebrentur processiones: per/
agantur solennia sacra: festaq; fronde velentur delubra· exultet
Christus in terris quemadmodum in celis exultat: quom tot po/
pulorum perditas ante hac animas saluatum iri p̄uider. Lete/
mur et nos: cum propter exaltationem nostre fidei· tum propter
rerum temporalium incrementa: quorū non solum Hispania sed
vniuersa Ebistianitas est futura particeps. Nec vt gesta sunt
sic breuiter enarrata. Vale. Vlis bone pridie Idus Martii.

Christoforus Colom Oceane classis Prefectus.

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**¶ Epigramma R. L. de Cozbaria Episcopi Montisपालुसि.
Ad Inuictissimum Regem Hispaniarum.**

Jam nulla Hispanse tellus addenda Triumphis
Atq; parum tantis viribus orbis erat.
Nunc longe Cois regio deprensasub undis.
Auctura est titulos Betice magne tuos;
Unde repertozi merito referenda Colombo
Gratia: sed summo est maior habēda deo.
Qui vincenda parat noua Regna tibiq; sibiq;
Teq; simul fortem prestat esse pium.









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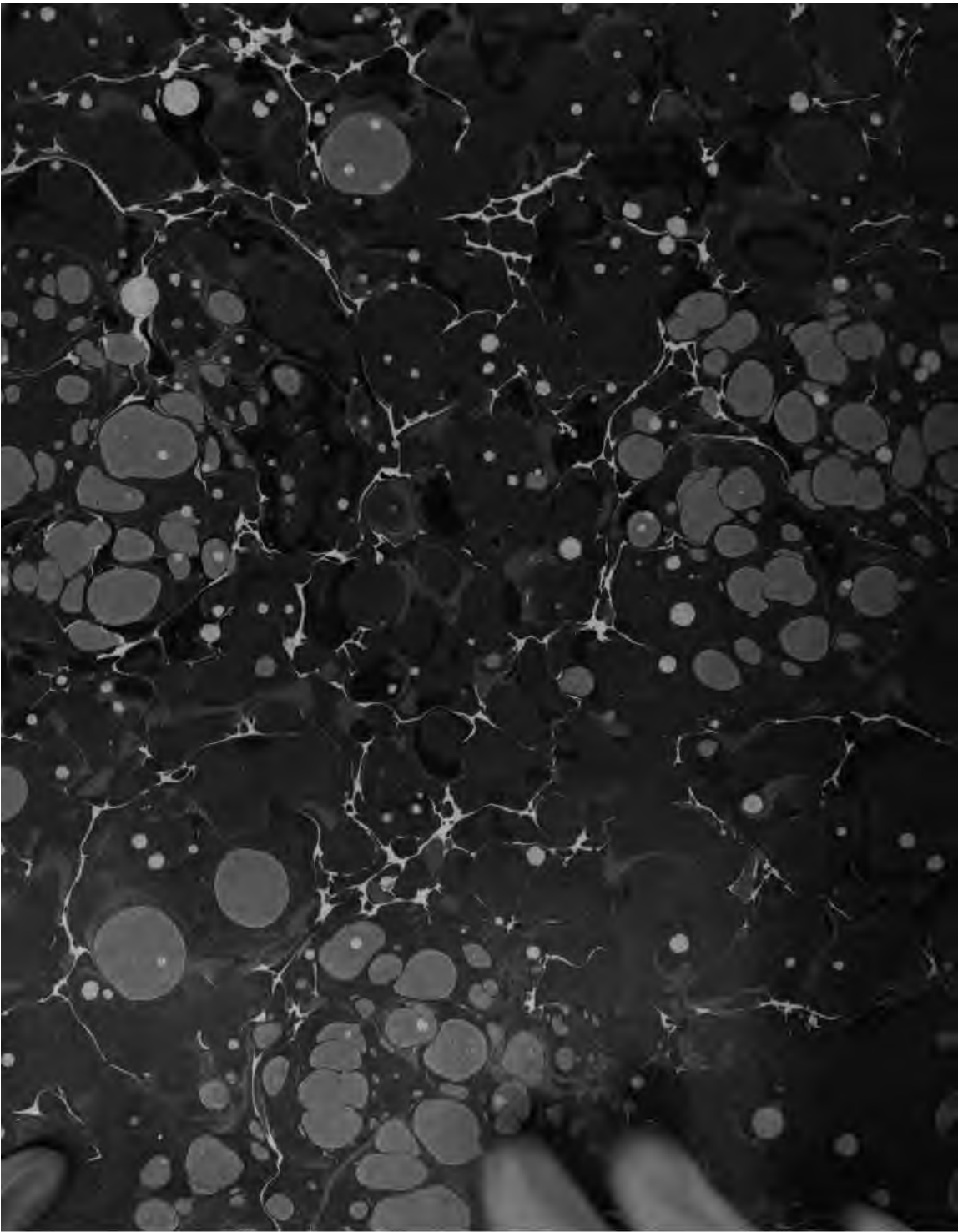








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